

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 09/776,329

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REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 30, 2003. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 11-23 and 32-47 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 3, 9-10, 24-31 and 48-50 have been cancelled by Applicant. Claims 1-2, 9-10 and 24-28 are rejected, and claims 3-8, 11-23 and 32-47 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner.

The Applicants have chosen to expedite prosecution of this application by amending the claims into a form indicated as allowable by the Examiner. The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the original subject matter without prejudice in continuation/divisional applications.

CLAIM REJECTIONS**A. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Claims 1-2 and 9-10**

Claims 1, 3 and 10-11 stand rejected as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,203,613 to *Gates, et al.*, (hereinafter referred to as "*Gates*"). In response, the Applicants have cancelled claim 10 and amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3, which has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and claim 2 depending therefrom are patentable over *Gates*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

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B. 35 U.S.C. §103 Claims 24-28

Claims 24-25 and 27-28 stand rejected as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,001,415 to *Nogami, et al.*, (hereinafter referred to as "*Nogami*") in view of *Gates*. Claim 26 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Nogami* in view of *Gates*, and in further view of United States Patent No. 6,124,203 to *Joo, et al.*, (hereinafter referred to as "*Joo*"). In response, the Applicants have cancelled claims 24-28.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for his comments regarding the allowability of claims 3-8, 11-23 and 32-47. In response, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, and claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the Applicants request allowance of these claims, and all claims depending therefrom.

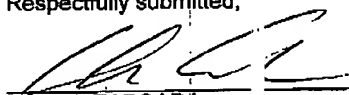
CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Oct 30, 2003


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